



Submission by Palau on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States in response to the call for inputs from the Climate High-Level Champions

5 September 2025

1. The Republic of Palau, on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), welcomes the opportunity to submit its views in response to the [call for inputs](#) from the Climate High-Level Champions (CHLCs) in their letter dated 17 July 2025.
2. AOSIS welcomes the significant contributions of the CHLCs and the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action (MP) in mobilizing non-Party stakeholders (NPS) to advance greater climate ambition and action. These efforts have been essential in aligning diverse actors in promoting a whole-of-society response to climate change.
3. AOSIS played an instrumental role in the creation of the Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA), recognizing the importance of engaging NPS in climate action alongside Parties. At this critical moment, with the first Global Stocktake (GST1) having delivered a clear roadmap that calls for a transition away from fossil fuels, tripling renewable energy capacity, and doubling energy efficiency by 2030, the GCAA must play a central role in connecting actors, catalyzing action and building partnerships to deliver on these outcomes.
4. AOSIS acknowledges the significant contributions of the CHLCs and the MP in mobilizing NPS to advance greater climate ambition and action. These efforts have been essential in aligning diverse actors in promoting a whole-of-society response to climate change.
5. AOSIS welcomes the [Work Programme For The Climate High-Level Champions And The Marrakech Partnership For Global Climate Action For 2025](#) and the collaborative process through which it was developed.
6. AOSIS welcomes the assurance that the work of the GCAA will continue to be grounded in science, noting the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) [recent Advisory Opinion](#) confirming the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as the authoritative source of climate science. It is vital that climate action is ramped up with urgency to meet the 1.5°C limit enshrined in the Paris Agreement and reaffirmed by the ICJ.
7. As the Paris Agreement matures and enters implementation cycles, AOSIS supports the COP30 Presidency's efforts to streamline the GCAA and improve accountability. A more focused approach is required to achieve greater coordination and deliver tangible action.
8. AOSIS welcomes the six-axis structure outlined by the COP30 Incoming Presidency in its [4th letter](#) to the international community. We emphasize that while this structure provides a useful framework, it must actively drive implementation in all contexts,



including the unique circumstances of SIDS. The GCAA should ensure that SIDS needs are integrated across all axes, with dedicated mechanisms to accelerate the deployment of solutions for energy transition, adaptation, and resilience.

9. The sixth axis, *Unleashing Enablers and Accelerators, including on Finance, Technology, and Capacity Building* must be treated as a central, cross-cutting component, not an afterthought. Mobilizing finance, technology, and capacity building is vital to enabling climate action in SIDS. The GCAA should explicitly focus on securing grant-based and highly concessional resources for SIDS to support adaptation, resilience-building, and the deployment of climate solutions.

Question 1: What should success look like for the GCAA in the next five years, and how can it be measured effectively?

10. Success for the GCAA in the next five years should be measured by its ability to accelerate delivery of the GST1 outcomes, namely the transition away from fossil fuels, the rapid scale-up of renewable energy and energy efficiency, and the strengthening of adaptation and resilience. This requires turning announcements and pledges into measurable, reportable, and verifiable action on the ground.
11. The GCAA should establish clear benchmarks and indicators that track not only the scale of NPS commitments but also their alignment with the Paris Agreement's long-term goals. Metrics should include measurable contributions to mitigation, adaptation, and finance, as well as progress in areas such as resilience-building, early warning systems, ocean and coastal protection, and sustainable infrastructure.
12. Importantly, success must also be judged by the ability of the GCAA to mobilize means of implementation (finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity building) for countries, particularly SIDS. For SIDS, ensuring timely and adequate means of implementation is critical to enable ambitious action that addresses our unique vulnerabilities.

Question 2: How can the GCAA facilitate direct and impactful engagement between Parties and NPS to support implementation efforts at both national and sectoral levels, in order to advance the full delivery of the GST, NDCs, and NAPs?

13. The GCAA should serve as a bridge between the ambition of NPS and the implementation needs of Parties. This requires stronger institutional linkages between NPS initiatives and national climate priorities, including NDCs, NAPs, and long-term strategies. For SIDS, direct engagement with NPS can help identify and deploy innovative solutions in



vital areas such as renewable energy deployment, coastal resilience, food and water security and resilient infrastructure.

14. Activation Groups under the GCAA should be designed to connect governments with NPS in a way that advances national priorities and recognizes special needs and specific circumstances. SIDS voices must be integrated into Activation Groups to ensure their engagement reflects their unique scale, vulnerabilities, and technical and financial needs.
15. Activation Groups should look to align their work with Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, the [Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS \(ABAS\)](#) and other relevant global and regional development frameworks. This will help ensure that climate action simultaneously advances broader development objectives and addresses the distinct challenges faced by SIDS.
16. The GCAA should also play a role in mobilizing and directing private sector finance toward climate action in developing countries, particularly for adaptation and resilience building. Leveraging private finance alongside public resources will be critical to delivering scalable solutions on the ground.

Question 3: How can the GCAA promote an inclusive and equitable engagement, in particular from underrepresented groups and regions?

17. Equitable engagement requires recognizing the diversity of NPS and ensuring that smaller countries and stakeholders with limited capacity are not excluded. SIDS, for example, face unique constraints, which often prevent our NPS from participating effectively in global processes.
18. The GCAA should create dedicated opportunities and support mechanisms to amplify underrepresented voices. This can include financial and logistical support to enable participation, regional platforms that connect NPS from SIDS, and dedicated events that spotlight innovative solutions from different regions. By doing so, the GCAA can ensure inclusivity is not just rhetorical but results in practical empowerment.
19. Inclusivity should also extend to local communities, women, and youth, who are on the frontlines of climate change impacts. Their leadership and innovations must be systematically integrated into the GCAA process. For SIDS, the perspectives of local communities are especially critical to ensure solutions are context-appropriate and sustainable.



Question 4: What improvements can be made to ensure better transparency, reporting and follow up of the GCAA, including in existing tools such as the Global Climate Action Portal (a.k.a NAZCA) and the Yearbook of Global Climate Action?

20. Transparency and accountability are critical for the credibility of the GCAA. Existing tools, such as the Global Climate Action Portal and the Yearbook of Global Climate Action, should go beyond collecting pledges and serve as platforms for tracking progress, identifying gaps, and showcasing best practices.
21. Data collected should allow for disaggregation by region and sector to highlight where implementation is occurring and where gaps persist, including in SIDS. This would enable Parties and NPS to identify opportunities for enhanced cooperation and direct attention where action is most urgently required.
22. The GCAA should also ensure regular follow-up mechanisms, such as progress briefings at COPs and SB sessions, to maintain momentum and accountability. These reports should be grounded in science, aligned with IPCC guidance, and linked directly to the GST cycle so that lessons learned feed back into the formal process.

Conclusion

23. The next five years will be decisive for determining whether the world can remain on a 1.5°C pathway. The GCAA, under the leadership of the Climate High-Level Champions, has a critical role to play in ensuring that non-Party stakeholder ambition is fully aligned with the Paris Agreement and contributes meaningfully to implementation.
24. For AOSIS, the GCAA must deliver more than visibility. It must translate commitments into implementation, mobilize means of implementation, and ensure inclusive, science-based engagement that advances resilience and prosperity for all.